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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI.

MASTER OF KUNG FU

6 MORE **KUNG FU** ACTION & THRILLS THAN EVER BEFORE!



2600
BEAT TY

PLUS THE DRAMATIC
DEBUT OF AN EXCITING
NEW MARTIAL ARTS
SUPER STAR!

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father; that my name means 'The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit,' and that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on Earth... and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my **name**."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

CARTER'S SUPER MIDNIGHT

AND THERE'S THE BELL FOR THE START OF ROUND ONE HERE IN LONDON! JENKINS IN THE LIGHT PANTS IS CERTAINLY LOSING NO TIME IN STRIKING AT ONE-EYED CARTER'S BLIND SIDE! A BEAUTIFUL SWING KICK -- PICKED OFF, HOWEVER, BY CARTER'S RIGHT GLOVE, GIL.

RIGHT YOU ARE, ED. YOU KNOW, CARTER HAS OFTEN BEEN COMPARED TO THE PROFESSIONAL KARATE ASSOCIATION'S MIDDLE-WEIGHT CHAMP, BILL "SUPERFOOT" WALLACE -- BUT I SEE AS MANY DIFFERENCES IN THEIR STYLES AS THERE ARE SIMILARITIES.

"AH! THE NUMBERS ON THE TICKETS MATCH THE SEATS ... HERE."



INDEED -- NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS THAT CARTER IS NOW FIGHTING WITH ONLY ONE GOOD EYE. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE'S ENTERED THE RING FOR A FULL-CONTACT BOUT SINCE HE LOST THE VISION IN HIS LEFT EYE FROM A BOATING ACCIDENT THIS SPRING. FRANKLY, GIL, I THINK HE'S CRAZY.

DOUG MOENCH / MIKE ZECK & GENE DAY / JIM NOVAK / BOB SHAREN / JIM SALICRUP / JIM SHOOTER
WRITER ARTISTS LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I HAVE NEVER SEEN ONE OF THESE ORGANIZED MATCHES, LEIKO.

NEITHER HAVE I, SHANG... EXCEPT ONCE ON THE TELEVISION. ODD LUCK IN GETTING THE TICKETS...

USE THE KICK!
USE THE *KICK!*

"ODD LUCK INDEED. WE HAD RETURNED FROM SMITH'S SCOTTISH CASTLE TO LONDON ONLY THIS MORNING..."

WELL, SHANG, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH SMITH'S NEW ORGANIZATION?

I DON'T KNOW YET. THIS "FREELANCE RESTORATIONS" MAY BE TOO MUCH LIKE MI-6-- BUT AT LEAST WE WERE ABLE TO PUT AN END TO SAMISDAT AND HIS DAWNING LIGHT CULT. IF WE --

UH, EXCUSE ME, BUT ONE-EYED CARTER IS GOING FOR THE KARATE CHAMPIONSHIP TONIGHT, LAST ON THE CARD AT MIDNIGHT, AND I JUST LEARNED MY BIRD IS ILL...

BIRD?

YES-- GIRL-FRIEND.

GUESS I'M STILL LIVING IN THE 60'S, EH? ANYWAY, I CAN'T USE THESE TICKETS, SO THEY'RE YOURS IF YOU WANT 'EM. I MEAN, YOU BEING ORIENTALS AND ALL, I THOUGHT--

THANK YOU.

WELL, SO LONG-- ENJOY THE BOUT!

HMP.

NOW WE KNOW WHAT TO DO AFTER DINNER, SHANG.

ROUND ONE IS NEARING AN END AND-- JUST IN TIME BY OUR UNOFFICIAL COUNT-- JENKINS DELIVERS THE LAST OF HIS REQUIRED EIGHT KICKS PER ROUND. IT MISSES, BUT AT LEAST HE WON'T BE PENALIZED FOR NOT THROWING IT.

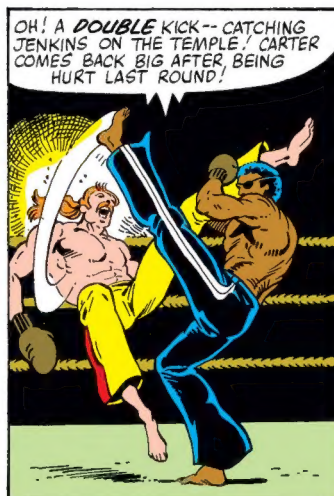
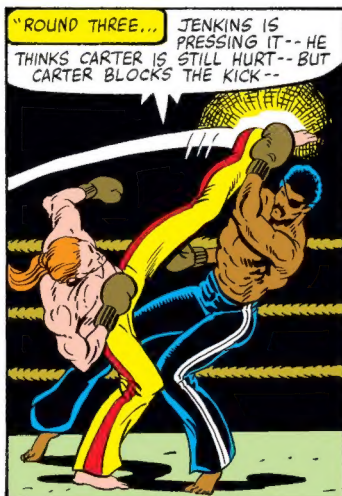
"THE MATCH IS NOT WHAT I EXPECTED. THE GLOVES ARE A SURPRISE--

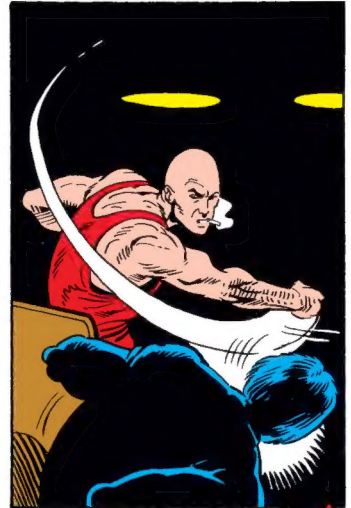
--AS ARE THE TWO MINUTE TIME LIMITATIONS CALLED 'ROUNDS'-- AND THE RULES, REQUIRING A CERTAIN NUMBER OF KICKS, ARE TOO RIGID...

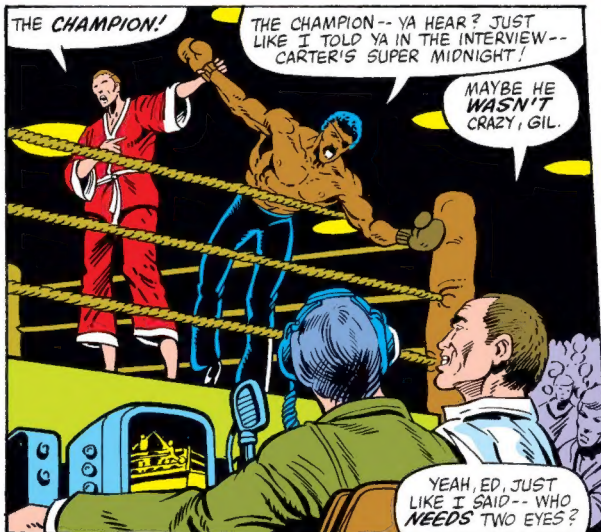
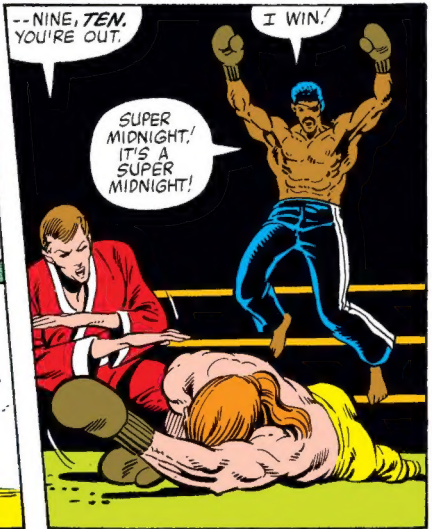
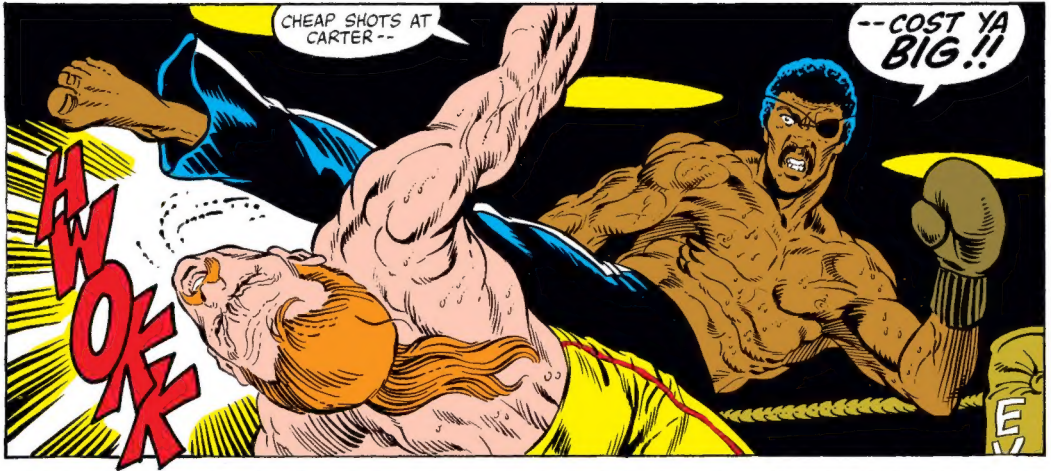
OH! CARTER LANDS A SOLID, CRUSHING LEFT CROSS JUST AT THE SOUND OF THE BELL, ENDING ROUND ONE!

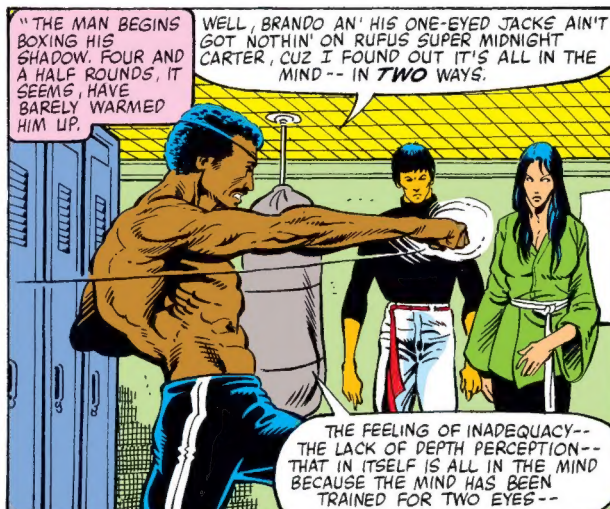
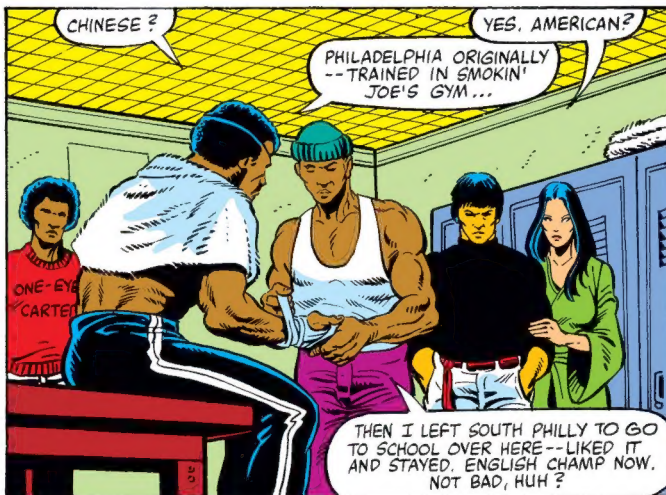
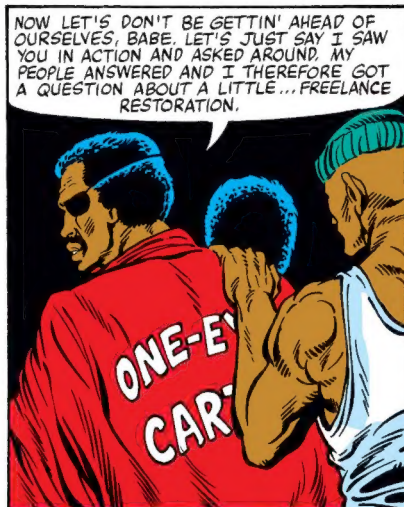
"STILL, THE LEVEL OF SKILL IS IMPRESSIVE.

SNOP









WHEN ONE LAMP IS COPPED YOU'RE BOUND TO FEEL YOU'RE WORKIN' ON ONLY HALF-JUICE, BUT I'M HERE TELLIN' YA THAT ONE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH, BECAUSE EVERYTHING THAT OTHER EYE EVER SAW IS **ALSO** IN THE MIND, Y'SEE...



...STORED IN THE MIRACLE BRAIN, STUFFED AWAY IN THE GRAY SQUIGGLY FILES IN THERE--AND YOU CAN DRAW ON IT--IF YOU TEACH YOUR ONE GOOD EYE TO OPEN THE FILES, TO REMEMBER THE TIMES IT HAD WITH THE OTHER EYE BACK WHEN.



Y'SEE, THE OTHER EYES LIKE A SILENT PARTNER NOW...

IT'S GONE, YOU CAN'T SEE IT, BUT IT'S STILL THERE WHEN THE HEAVY DECISIONS ROLL AROUND, AND ALL'S YA GOTTA DO IS TEACH THE REMAINING EYE HOW TO MAKE HIS SILENT PARTNER **TALK**. SO, WITH ZEN AN' A LITTLE HELP FROM THEM BLIND ARCHER CATS--



--WHO ARE HEAVY DUDES, I MEAN TO TELL YA--YOU DON'T REALLY **PERCEIVE** THE DEPTH PERCEPTION ANYMORE, BUT YOU RESEARCH IT IN THE FILES AND YOU COMBINE THE RESEARCH WITH THE PRESENT DATA AND YOU **CALCULATE** THE DEPTH FROM PAST EXPERIENCE... ALL IN A FAST FLASH OF SUPER MIDNIGHT.



YOU DIG, BABE?

PERFECTLY.

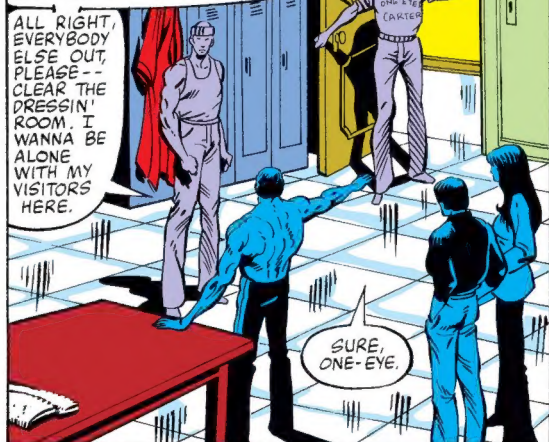
"**PERFECTLY**"--?! YOU **HEAR** THIS CAT?!"
"PERFECTLY"--! I GIVE HIM THE BEST LIP-FLAP RAP IN MY BOOK AND HE STANDS THERE WITH A STONE-COLD FACE AND SAYS "PERFECTLY".



I LIKE YOU, BABE, I REALLY LIKE YOU--REMINDS ME OF MY TEACHER.

AND JUST CUZ I LIKE YOU SO MUCH, I'M GONNA POSE THAT QUESTION I MENTIONED.

ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY ELSE OUT, PLEASE--CLEAR THE DRESSIN' ROOM. I WANNA BE ALONE WITH MY VISITORS HERE.



SURE, ONE-EYE.

NOW, I AIN'T JUST A KARATE HAND-CHOPPER--I ALSO RUN AN ANTIQUE STORE ON THE SIDE, AND IT'S RUN ME INTO TROUBLE. BIG BOYS COMIN' ROUND WITH OPEN PALMS FOR PROTECTION COIN.



DIG--I DON'T WANT ANY PUBLICITY, DON'T WANT ANY OF MY TRAINERS OR FRIENDS GETTIN' MIXED UP IN THIS THING...

AND THE POLICE CAN'T DO NOTHIN' -- SO WHEN COOCH, MY CUT MAN, WHEN HE SAYS HE'S HEARD ABOUT YOU AND HOW YOU GOT THIS OUT-FIT CALLED FREELANCE RESTORATIONS, WELL, I DECIDED YOU MIGHT RESTORE SOME COIN TO ME BEFORE IT'S EVEN TAKEN.



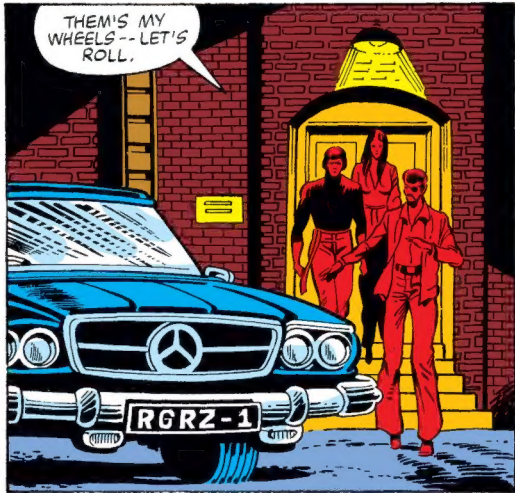
RATHER PAY YOU ONCE THAN THE BIG BOYS EVERY WEEK, IF YOU CAN DIG IT.



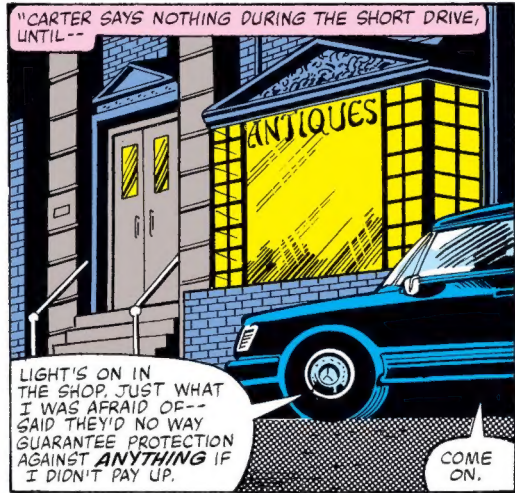
"I AM HESITANT... BUT--"

NO MONEY-- BUT WE WILL LOOK INTO IT.

SUIT YOURSELVES. WHEN IT'S ALL OVER I'LL OFFER THE BREAD AGAIN AND YOU CAN RE-DECIDE, WAIT OUTSIDE WHILE I SLIP THROUGH A SHOWER-- THEN WE'LL DRIVE OVER TO THE SHOP AN' I'LL DOPE YA SOME MORE.



THEM'S MY WHEELS-- LET'S ROLL.



"CARTER SAYS NOTHING DURING THE SHORT DRIVE, UNTIL--"

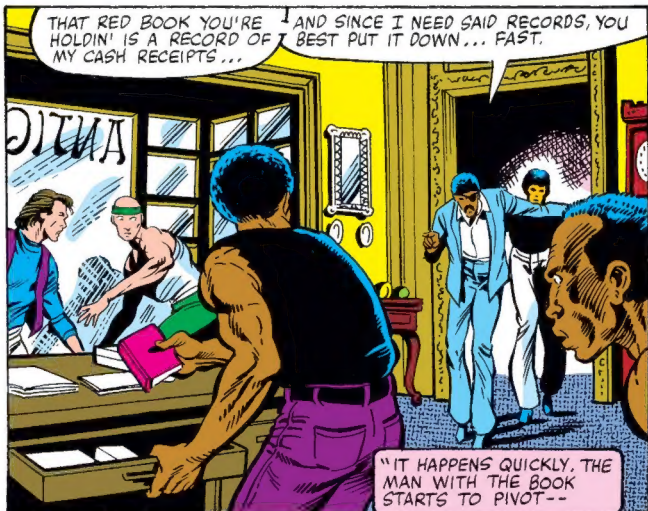
LIGHT'S ON IN THE SHOP. JUST WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF. SAID THEY'D NO WAY GUARANTEE PROTECTION AGAINST **ANYTHING** IF I DIDN'T PAY UP.

COME ON.



FOUR OF 'EM-- AND JUST PUNKS.

LET'S GET COCKY.



THAT RED BOOK YOU'RE HOLDIN' IS A RECORD OF MY CASH RECEIPTS...

AND SINCE I NEED SAID RECORDS, YOU BEST PUT IT DOWN... FAST.

"IT HAPPENS QUICKLY. THE MAN WITH THE BOOK STARTS TO PIVOT--"

"-- BUT BEFORE HE CAN LIFT HIS OTHER FOOT, CARTER GREET'S HIM MORE THAN HALFWAY.



"ONE OF THE OTHERS SEEKS TO DRIVE LEIKO OUT OF THE DOORWAY.



"HE FAILS."

"I MOVE TO THE THIRD MAN, FORCED TO SHATTER THE VASE-- BUT BETTER THIS WAY THAN ON CARTER'S HEAD.



"I LAND WITH AMPLE TIME TO ANSWER AN ATTACK FROM THE REAR.



"AND THEN, ALL IS MADNESS.

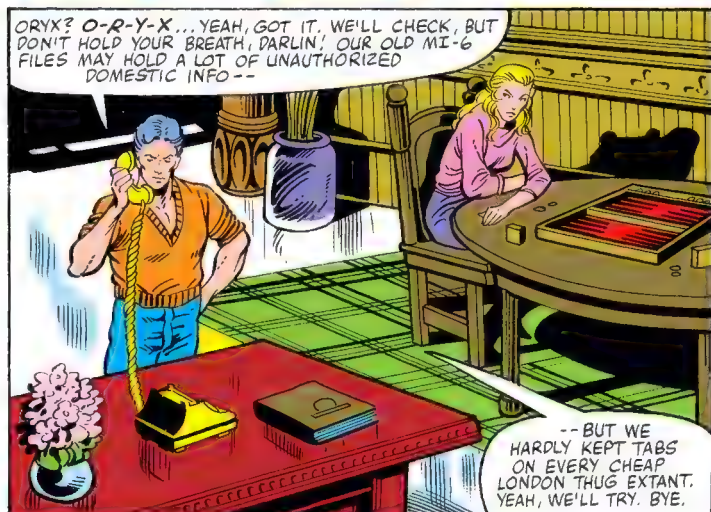
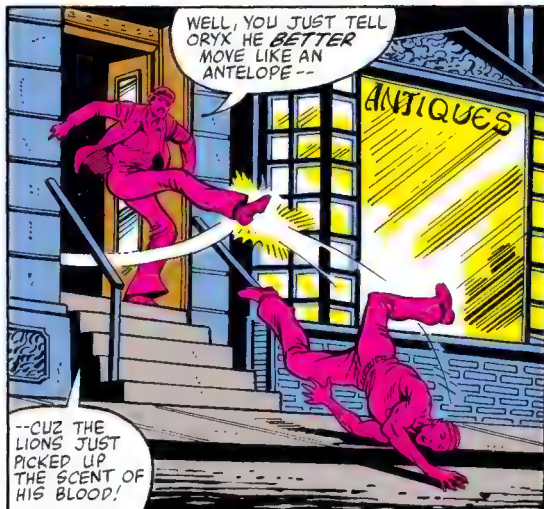
"CONTROLLED CONFUSION.

"UNITED FURY.



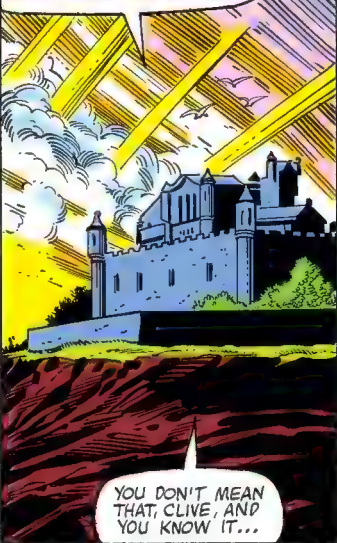
MAN -- WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE ?!





"MORNING... AND I AWAKE WONDERING IF RESTON AND MELISSA GREVILLE HAVE HAD ANY SUCCESS..."

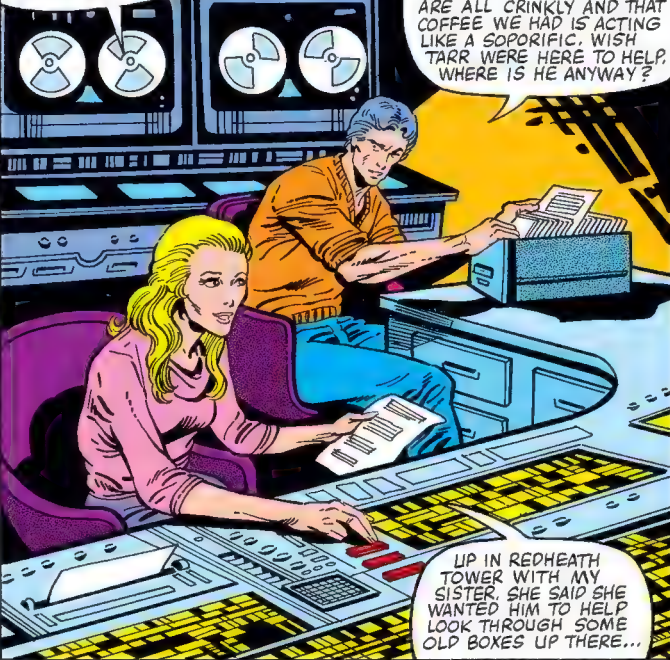
WITCHED NIGHT, MELISSA. ALMOST WISH WE'D SKIPPED THAT BACKGAMMON GAME AND GONE TO BED. COULDN'T HAVE PRETENDED WE DIDN'T HEAR THE PHONE...



YOU DON'T MEAN THAT, CLIVE, AND YOU KNOW IT...

YOU'D DO ANYTHING TO HELP LEIKO AND SHANG-CHI.

GUILTY AS CHARGED, DARLIN', BUT I MUST BE GETTIN' OLD--MY EYES ARE ALL CRINKLY AND THAT COFFEE WE HAD IS ACTING LIKE A SOPORIFIC. WISH TARR WERE HERE TO HELP, WHERE IS HE ANYWAY?



UP IN REDHEATH TOWER WITH MY SISTER. SHE SAID SHE WANTED HIM TO HELP LOOK THROUGH SOME OLD BOXES UP THERE...

WELL, MANDY, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW THAT LEEKS HAS SUCCEEDED IN DEPROGRAMMING YOU-- NOW THAT YOU'VE FOUND YOUR HEAD AGAIN?



I'M NOT SURE I HAVE, BLACK JACK...

I STILL FEEL SOMETHING LACKING, STILL FEEL EMPTY. OH, DON'T WORRY-- I'M NOT READY TO GO BACK TO SAMISDAT'S DAWNING LIGHT, OR ANY OTHER CULT FOR THAT MATTER.



CULTS LIKE THAT OFFER ONLY FALSE FULFILLMENT...

THEY DON'T REALLY SUPPLY THE NEED I FEEL-- THE NEED SO MANY KIDS FEEL TODAY. IT'S A SENSE OF... WASTING ONESELF... OF FLATNESS, NO DEPTH... SIMPLY PLODDING ALONG WITH NO LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL... NOTHING WAITING AT THE END BUT BOREDOM AND DEATH...



BUT EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT ABOUT TO PLOD ALONG TO THE DAWNING LIGHT'S FALSE DRUM, NOR DO I WISH TO RETURN WORKING FOR MY UNCLE AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.



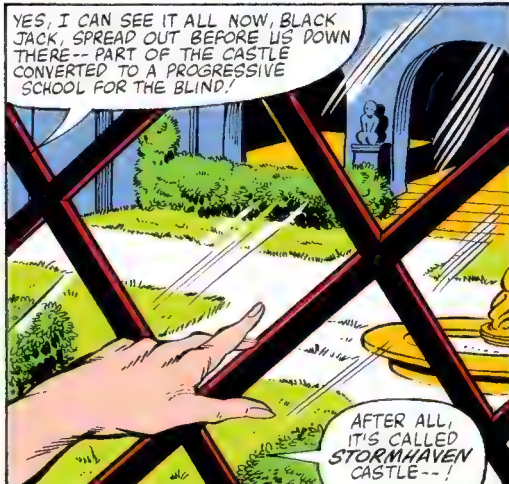
THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO, MANDY?

I WANT TO... OH, I DON'T KNOW, BLACK JACK... I GUESS I WANT TO FULFILL THAT ELUSIVE NEED-- PERHAPS BY HELPING **TRULY** NEEDY KIDS OR...



YES! THAT'S IT! I WANT TO IGNITE MY **OWN** DAWNING LIGHT-- BY HELPING BLIND KIDS TO SEE IN NEW WAYS! AND IT COULD BE DONE RIGHT HERE, DON'T YOU SEE?!

UH, MANDY, BEFORE YA GO GETTIN' ALL BRIGHT-EYED ABOUT IT, I DON'T THINK SIR DENIS--



YES, I CAN SEE IT ALL NOW, BLACK JACK, SPREAD OUT BEFORE US DOWN THERE-- PART OF THE CASTLE CONVERTED TO A PROGRESSIVE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND!

AFTER ALL, IT'S CALLED **STORMHAVEN** CASTLE--!



WHY NOT A HAVEN FROM THE STORM OF DARKNESS? WE COULD HAVE SPECIALLY MARKED PATHS PUT IN AND--

MANDY, SIR DENIS JUST SPENT A LOT OF MONEY-- HIS LAST PENNY, IN FACT-- TURNING THIS CASTLE INTO A HEAD-QUARTERS FOR OUR NEW AGENCY-- AND--

YES-- FREELANCE RESTORATIONS-- AND SURELY HE'D LET **ME** FREELANCE OUT OF HERE TOO, RESTORING "SIGHT" TO THE BLIND!



THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM--! AND MELISSA WOULD BE GLAD TO HELP ME-- AND IT WOULD BE A PERFECT COVER FOR YOUR AGENCY!

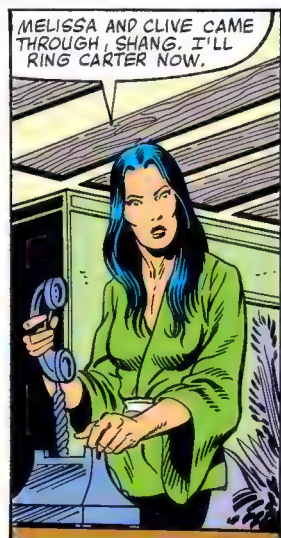
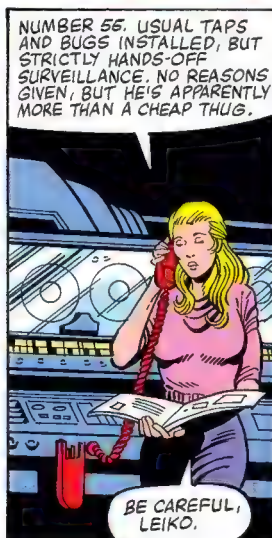
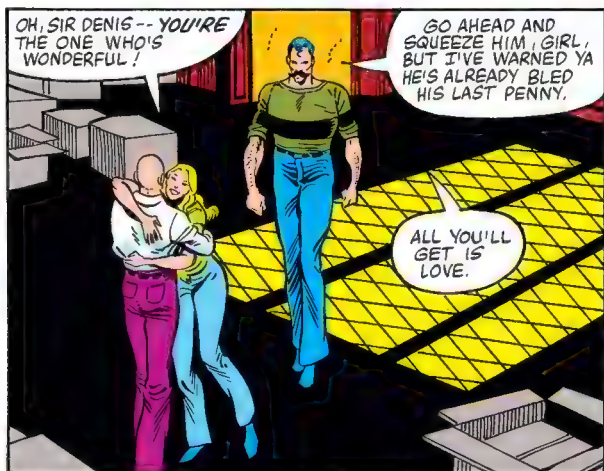
BESIDES, THERE'D BE TAX BREAKS AND PERHAPS EVEN GRANTS TO HELP DEFRAY THE CASTLE'S UPKEEP!

WHAT DO YOU SAY, BLACK JACK? WILL YOU GO WITH ME TO ASK SIR DENIS?



ANSWER ONE QUESTION FIRST, YOU LITTLE VIXEN. YOU DIDN'T COOK ALL THIS UP RIGHT HERE ON THE SPOT, DID YOU? YOU HAD IT PLANNED ALL ALONG!

WELL, I... I GUESS YOU COULD SAY...



YOU GOT IT, MISS WU? FANTABULOUS! BEAUTIFUL! NOW LISTEN -- SINCE LAST NIGHT WAS SUCH A SUPER MIDNIGHT, WHY BREAK THE STRING? I'LL PICK YOU UP AT ELEVEN -- THAT'LL GIVE US AN HOUR BEFORE WE HIT 'EM!



WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE GET THERE?

PLAY IT BY EAR, I GUESS -- TRY TO GET SOMETHING ON ORYX WE CAN TURN OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES AND SHUT HIM DOWN. IN THE MEANTIME, SHANG, LET'S GO TO A MOVIE.



YOU GOT 'EM?

YEP -- IT'S WORKING PERFECTLY, MY FRIEND. PERFECTLY.



"ELEVEN: THE MOVIE WAS POOR. THE NIGHT IS CHILL, AND DAMP..."



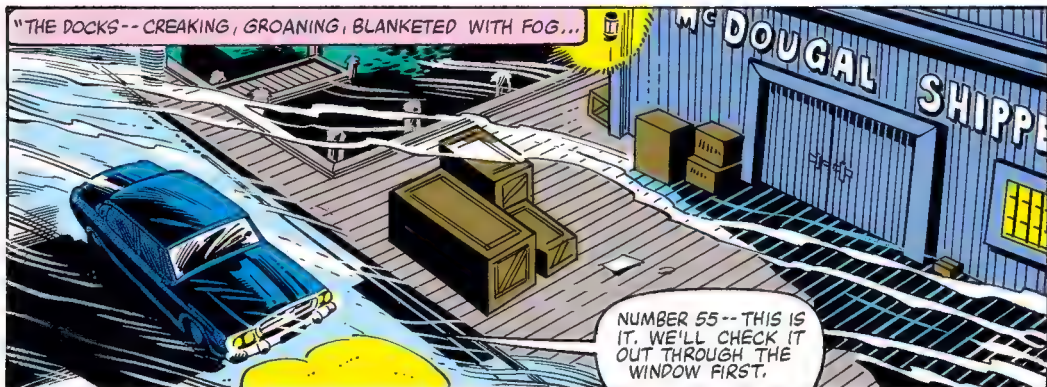
I DID SOME CHECKIN' ON MY OWN -- AND I MEAN TO TELL YA, THIS ORYX DUDE IS BAD. AND *MEAN*? YEAH -- SO BETTER LET ME HANDLE HIM. I DON'T WANT YOU TWO COMIN' TO ANY SERIOUS HURT ON MY ACCOUNT.



"THERE IS MORE TO THIS AFFAIR THAN MEETS THE EYE. HIS EYE? PERHAPS..."

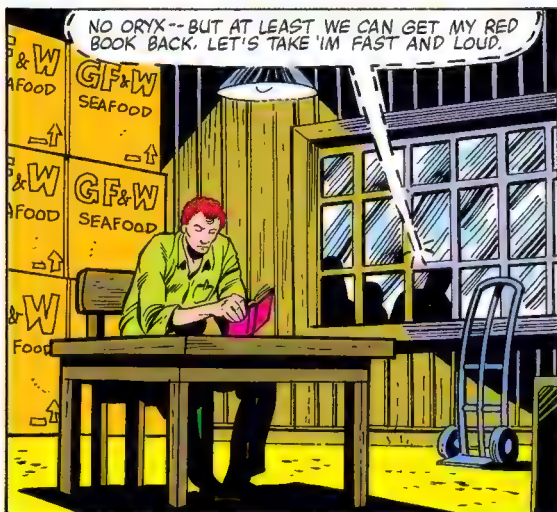


"THE DOCKS--CREAKING, GROANING, BLANKETED WITH FOG...



NUMBER 55-- THIS IS
IT. WE'LL CHECK IT
OUT THROUGH THE
WINDOW FIRST.

NO ORYX--BUT AT LEAST WE CAN GET MY RED BOOK BACK. LET'S TAKE 'IM FAST AND LOUD.



"HE MEANS IT.

CARTER! PERHAPS
A MORE STEALTHY
APPROACH--



THE BOOK!
GIVE ME THAT
RED BOOK!!

IT AIN'T
YOURS,
CARTER!



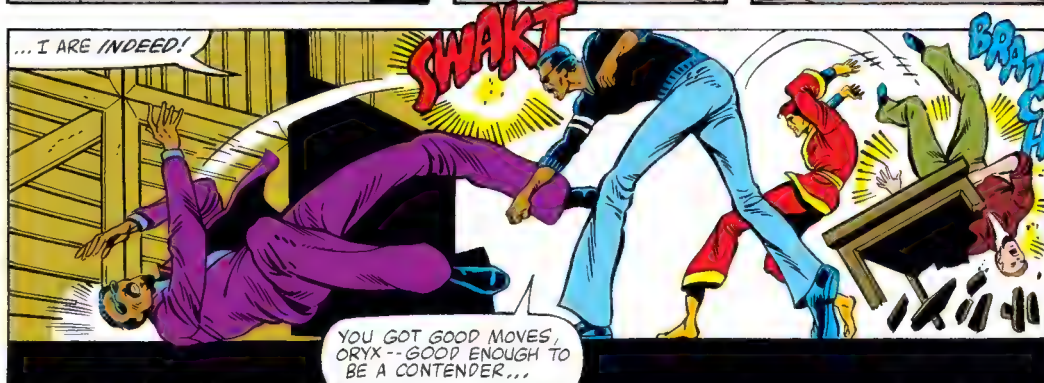
IT'S OURS NOW,
YOU HEAR?!

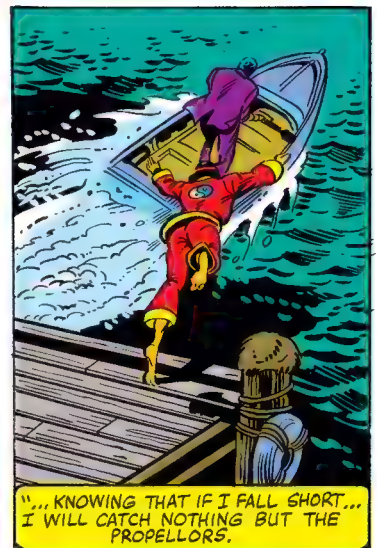
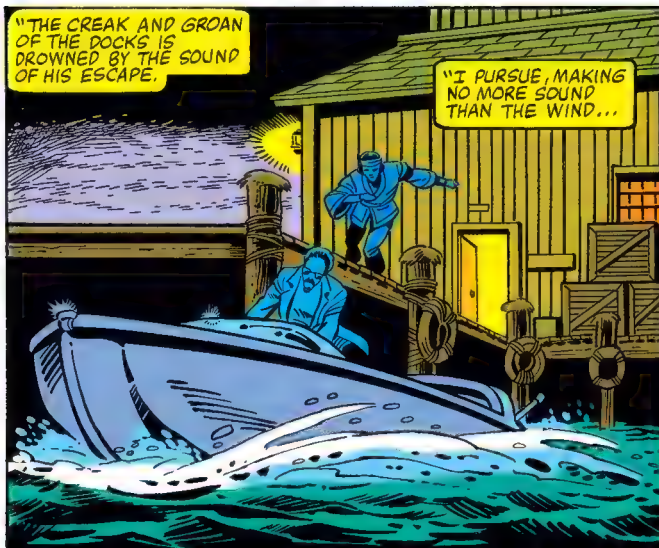
DON'T YOU COME UP
IN MY FACE,
MOTHER!

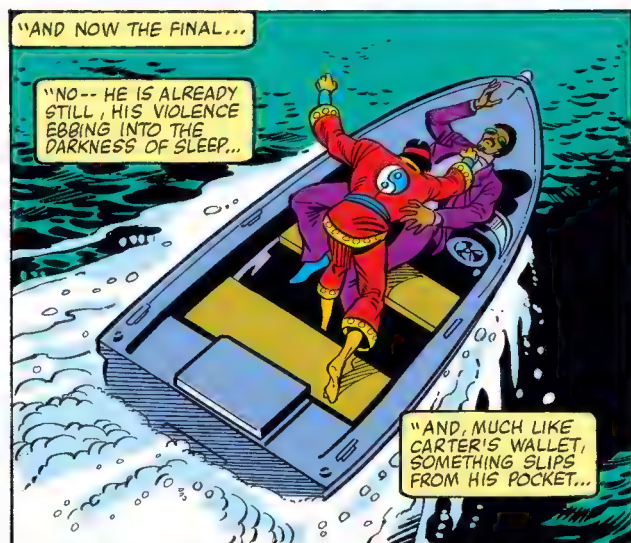


CALM YOURSELF, MR. CARTER. IF YOU WANT THE BOOK... YOU WILL HAVE TO TAKE IT.

"THE MAN CALLED ORYX
... IS A GIANT.







"IT IS A DOSSIER... AN INTELLIGENCE BIOGRAPHY... A COMPENDIUM OF SO-CALLED VITAL SECRETS... A BOOK HOLDING VALUE, NOW, ONLY FOR THOSE PLAYING THE SPY GAMES OF DECEIT AND DEATH..."



"BUT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, IT IS WORTHLESS."

"ITS SUBJECT IS THE MAN CALLED SAMISDAT, WHOSE CULT OF THE DAWNING LIGHT SERVED AS A COVER FOR SOVIET EXPERIMENTS WITH LASER SATELLITES..."

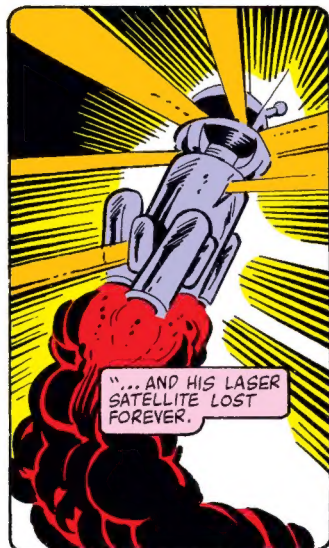


"THEN I WAS WRONG, IN A SENSE, TO THINK THAT THE BOOK WOULD NOT PERTAIN TO ANTIQUES... FOR THERE IS MUCH HERE-- EVERYTHING -- DEALING WITH OLD MATTERS AND SUBSTANCES FROM THE PAST..."



"INDEED, SAMISDAT'S ISLAND FORTRESS WAS DESTROYED WEEKS AGO..."

"... HIS CULT SHATTERED AND DISPERSED..."

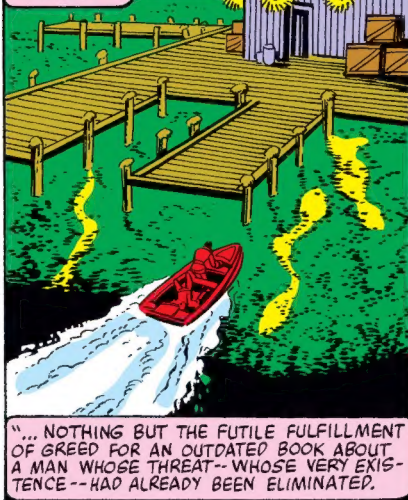


"... AND HIS LASER SATELLITE LOST FOREVER."

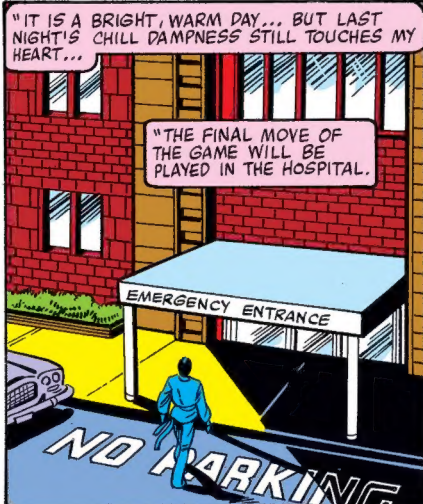
"FINALLY, SAMISDAT HIMSELF IS DEAD... JUST LIKE THE VALUE OF THIS BOOK."



"IT WAS **ALL** A LIE... AND ALL FOR NOTHING..."



"... NOTHING BUT THE FUTILE FULFILLMENT OF GREED FOR AN OUTDATED BOOK ABOUT A MAN WHOSE THREAT-- WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE-- HAD ALREADY BEEN ELIMINATED."



"IT IS A BRIGHT, WARM DAY... BUT LAST NIGHT'S CHILL DAMPNESS STILL TOUCHES MY HEART..."

"THE FINAL MOVE OF THE GAME WILL BE PLAYED IN THE HOSPITAL."

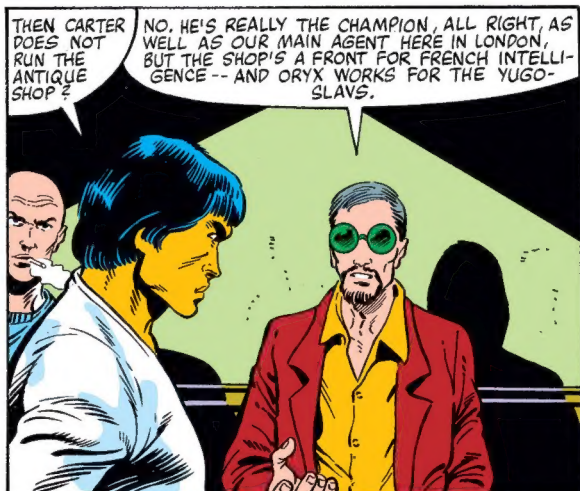


"INSIDE, I ENCOUNTER FAMILIAR FACES. IT DOES NOT SURPRISE ME. AT THIS POINT, NOTHING COULD."

THANKS FOR THE TICKETS WE ENJOYED THE FIGHTS.

COME ON KID, DON'T BE SARCASTIC LIKE THAT. WE HAD TO DO IT THE WAY WE DID.

WE KNEW YOU WERE FUNNY ABOUT TAKIN' JOBS -- KNEW YOU HAD TO FEEL SOME PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT OR SOMETHIN'...



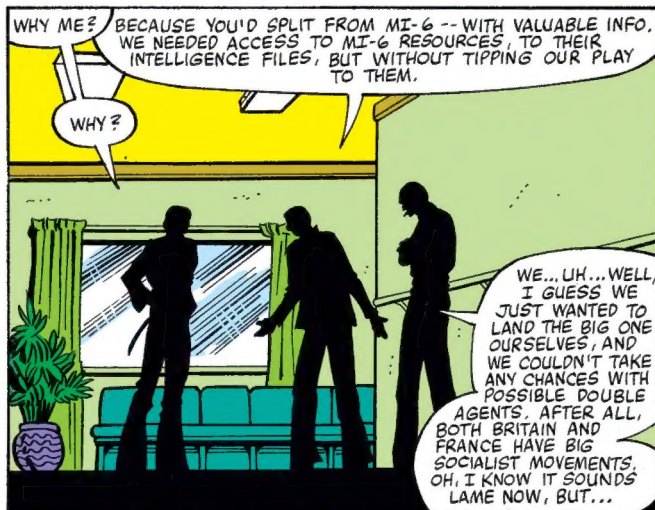
THEN CARTER DOES NOT RUN THE ANTIQUE SHOP?

NO. HE'S REALLY THE CHAMPION, ALL RIGHT, AS WELL AS OUR MAIN AGENT HERE IN LONDON, BUT THE SHOP'S A FRONT FOR FRENCH INTELLIGENCE -- AND ORYX WORKS FOR THE YUGOSLAVS.



BEFORE TITO KICKED OFF, HE LEARNED ABOUT SAMISDAT AND THE RUSSIAN CONNECTION WITH THE SATELLITES. HE WANTED TO STOP IT BEFORE IT BACKFIRED ON ALL THE COMMUNIST NATIONS... OR SO HE CLAIMED.

WE KNEW THE YUGOSLAVS WOULD THEREFORE MAKE A PLAY FOR THE RED BOOK DETAILING SAMISDAT'S PLANS, AND WE WANTED TO GET TO IT FIRST, BUT IN CASE WE DIDN'T -- WHICH WE DIDN'T -- WE KNEW WE'D NEED YOU.



WHY ME?

BECAUSE YOU'D SPLIT FROM MI-6 -- WITH VALUABLE INFO. WE NEEDED ACCESS TO MI-6 RESOURCES, TO THEIR INTELLIGENCE FILES, BUT WITHOUT TIPPING OUR PLAY TO THEM.

WHY?

WE... UH... WELL, I GUESS WE JUST WANTED TO LAND THE BIG ONE OURSELVES, AND WE COULDN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH POSSIBLE DOUBLE AGENTS. AFTER ALL, BOTH BRITAIN AND FRANCE HAVE BIG SOCIALIST MOVEMENTS. OH, I KNOW IT SOUNDS LAME NOW, BUT...



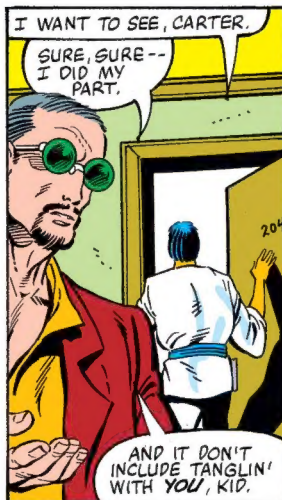
LOOK, EVEN WE WERE BEIN' PLAYED FOR HALF-SUCKERS -- AND CARTER DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE FRENCH CONNECTION AT ALL. I SWEAR IT. ANYWAYS, IT'S ALL ONE BIG MESS.

HOW WERE WE TO KNOW YOU'D ALREADY CRUSHED SAMISDAT AND HIS SATELLITE OPERATION? YOU'RE FREE-LANCERS, FOR PETE'S SAKE.



ANYWAYS, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, I APOLOGIZE.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, GET OUT OF MY WAY.



I WANT TO SEE, CARTER. SURE, SURE-- I DID MY PART.

AND IT DON'T INCLUDE TANGLIN' WITH YOU, KID.



WELL, WELL, IF IT AIN'T THAT LIL OLE FREELANCE RESTORER HIMSELF, FRESH FROM HIS VERY OWN SUPER MIDNI--

YOU LOST THIS, CARTER.



EH--? ME? WHEN DID I LOSE THAT?

LAST NIGHT. AT ABOUT... SUPER MIDNIGHT. WHEN I WAS BLIND.



EVERYONE'S BLIND AT MID-NIGHT. BUT YOU'RE WRONG, BABE. I STILL HAD THIS LAST NIGHT. I DIDN'T LOSE IT TILL I WOKE UP IN THIS HERE HOSPITAL CHARIOT--



--AND LISTENED TO MY ASSOCIATE STIEGLITZ OUT THERE SPILL THE BEANS, EVERY LAST ROTTEN BEAN IN THE SPOILED SOUP. A SHAME. I THOUGHT I WAS IN A HIGH-CLASS OUTFIT.

MAYBE I WAS. MAYBE IT IS A HIGH-CLASS OUTFIT.



BUT I DON'T LIKE BEIN' PLAYED FOR A SUCKER-- ON NO ACCOUNT OTHER THAN LACK OF TRUST. THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH THIS SPY GAME.

TO WORK AT ALL, IT'S GOTTA BE BUILT ON LIES.



ME, MYSELF, I DIDN'T SEE THROUGH THE BIG LIE AT ALL. BOTH EYES WERE BLIND. BUT NEVER AGAIN. MY EYE HAS BEEN OPENED, BABE.

I JUST QUIT, DON'T YA SEE?



GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO PUT MY SPECIALIZED SKILLS TO FREELANCE WORK FROM NOW ON-- MAYBE GO INTO THE ANTIQUE BUSINESS.

"I CANNOT STOP THE SMILE. THE MAN IS A LIVING ... OUTRAGE."



"AND, TOO, HE IS TRULY--" THE CHAMPION!

EASY, BABE, OR I'LL BUST A GUT ALL OVER AGAIN.

NEXT: LOST ART

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
BOB BUDIANSKY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

VICARIOUS EMOTIONAL CATHARSIS...?

Dear Doug, Mike, and Gene,

It's a credit to all of you that when I read page 2 of "Triumphs of the Flesh" (MOKF #90) I felt a genuine surge of emotion. I was actually close to tears. Specifically, I refer to the moment when Black Jack Tarr hugged Shang-Chi. As well-defined as the relationships between these fascinating characters are, they have never really *said* — in such concrete and demonstrative terms — how much they truly care for Shang-Chi or each other. Until now anyway.

The pacing of this story in general was a marvel of deft complexity rendered simple. Nothing seemed rushed and everything flowed naturally. I particularly enjoyed Black Jack's typically gruff (and almost fatherly) admonishment to Leiko to follow Shang and not to let him get away again. And then you led us off on a totally different tangent with Leiko's brother and the gang wars. I couldn't be happier. My renewed interest in this book is thanks to the tremendous effort the three of you are putting into it. Whatever you do, don't stop.

Bruce Weintraub
68-36 108th St.
Forest Hills, NY 11375

Dear Doug and Mike,

Why did I find MASTER OF KUNG FU #90 so thrilling and enjoyable? Simply because I loved the way Shang-Chi handled the Joy Boys on pages 19-27. Without a doubt they clearly represented the common big city scum everyone seems to fear but no one does anything about. Fortunately, Shang changed all that and I had the time of my life watching him beat the living daylight out of those punks. Now, I am not one akin to violence, but I'm sure it has been many a person's dream to one day just stop putting up with a bully's harassment, turn around and knock him into the next county. I know I've certainly longed for that day and I think that by reading this marvelous, if simple, sequence I have been brought closer to that moment. I certainly hope so. And if/when that day arrives, I also hope I can handle the situation with the finesse and subtlety that Shang so obviously employed (although I think I'll keep my shirt and shoes on)...

David C. Zimmermann
157 Lemay Gardens Ct.
St. Louis, MO 63125

Doug —

Just a short note to tell you that I've been sitting here savoring MASTER OF KUNG FU since way back in the early seventies — yet I've never felt compelled to write until now. And my reason for writing is other than simple praise...

There is a line in MOKF #90 that cut right to the core of my very being. You don't know me, Doug, but you've given me some of the bestest council I've ever received.

Less than four months ago I went through a gut-wrenching separation and divorce. Everyone tried to help me along with words of advice, bits of their own personal philosophy and the like. But nothing, and I mean *nothing*, struck me like panel 5 on page 2 of issue #90. When Shang-Chi tells Tarr, "Your woman... was in the past... treasure the memory of what she once was, but find your own future... and be not haunted by the ghost of what she became"... well, I haven't cried over her since last March, and I didn't cry upon reading those words. But I did get incredibly misty-eyed.

I wish I had run across the above quote several months earlier; as much as it helps me now, I could have really used it then. As I said, Doug, you don't know me — but thanks.

And people wonder why I still read certain comics at the age of 28...

Martin Boire
19 Jack & Jill
Dover, NH 03820

Thanks, People. Your letters are but mild examples of many we've received in a similar vein — some even claiming that MOKF has literally changed lives. Any writer or artist is naturally flattered upon learning that his work has touched and perhaps even affected someone's life, but both Doug and Mike find themselves a mite uncomfortable under the mantle of possible omnipotence. And, at the risk of preaching, we feel obligated to make at least a basic request. Please think for yourself, evaluating every decision in pragmatic terms, and don't get too carried away by fantasy... unless you're first firmly rooted in reality, aware of the difference between the two, and shooting for a worthy, attainable goal. If such is the case, we'd be honored to be claimed as influences on your decisions and actions.

Finally, this last letter has nothing to do with vicarious catharsis, but it does conjure visions of future events we'd like to briefly discuss...

Doug, Mike, and Gene:

You've come a long way with this series and it's hard to decide whether MASTER OF KUNG FU or X-MEN is the best book on the stands. Zeck seems to surpass himself with each story; the covers alone prove this, with those on #83 and 86 the best to date. I'd like to see the latter as the new cover stamp in the upper left corner. I remember Zeck's early fan work on a Sgt. Rock vs. Sgt. Fury takeoff and a 4-page Sub-Mariner piece in RBCC.

Let's see Chi stay in America for a while and then try some new locales. Maybe you could even adapt the Sax Rohmer novel *Tales of Secret Egypt* into a MOKF story.

By the way, reprinting the cover of #80 on the letters page was a good idea; it helps to remind the reader of the issue being discussed. The encounter between Chi and the cop and the step light was fantastic. Finally, I hope you have an extra special double-size issue in store for #100.

Dennis Petilli
306 Terry Rd.
Smithtown, NY 11787

Where'd you get the crystal ball, Den? We do indeed have a new corner cameo, as well as a new logo — both brainchildren of editor Jim Salicrup. You like?

And Chi did stay in America for a while (4½ issues) before moving on to other locales.

And yes, #100 (now in the planning stages) will be a special double-size issue, and — wouldja believe it? — Doug & Mike yesterday discussed the possibility of setting part of the story in Egypt.

NEXT: Shang-Chi tries to mend his disintegrating spirit in a rather offbeat tale whose first line portends: "Serenity is a lost art..." Thereafter, and despite storms of violence from the most unlikely of quarters, Chi tries to recoup the loss. Does he succeed? Guess you'll just have to be here to find out...

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST!

- ☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #71** — The Thing, the Inhumans and Mr. Fantastic!
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #91** — The Mandarin's last stand!
- ☐ **SPIDER-WOMAN #34** — Caught between Hammer and Arnil!
- ☐ **STAR TREK #10** — Spock and McCoy strided in space!
- ☐ **SPIDEY SUPER STORIES #50** — Easy readin' tales of the Web-slinger.
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #168** — The dangerous woman from DD's past!
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #94** — (Reprints Hulk #143) Enter: Dr. Doom!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #217** — The menace of Hydroman!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #253** — "What Ever Happened to the Invaders?"
- ☐ **THOR #303** — The man, the mob, and the god of Thunder!

- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #25** — Mayhem is Mentallo and the Fixer!
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #52** — Johnny Blaze is trapped forever in the form of Ghost Rider!
- ☐ **SHE-HULK #12** — The twin menace of Gemini!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #255** — Hammer to fist! against the mighty Thor!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #203** — The creatures beneath New York!
- ☐ **CONAN #118** — The sorcerer from beyond the stars!
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #123** — (Reprints Spider-Man #146) The Scorpion strikes!
- ☐ **MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #96** — (Reprints F.F. #116) The FF join forces with Doctor Doom!
- ☐ **X-MEN #141** — Kitty battles in the past to save the future!
- ☐ **AMAZING ADVENTURES #14** — (Reprints X-Men #8) "Unus the Untouchable!"

- ☐ **ROM #14** — The Spaceknight vs. the Mad Thinker!
- ☐ **FANTASY MASTERPIECES #14** — (Reprints Silver Surfer #14 and Warlock #10) The Surfer tangles with *Spider-Man*! Plus: "The Strange Death of Adam Warlock!"
- ☐ **MAN-THING #8** — Showdown with Captain Fate!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #226** — Who is... the Samurai Destroyer?
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #101** — Spidey and Nighthawk — together!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #142** — An entire town is murdered, and Iron Man vows to avenge it!
- ☐ **PETER PARKER #50** — The return of the most unexpected foes of all!
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #3** — "Midnight Means Murder!"
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER ACTION #27** — (Reprints Avengers #66) The Avengers are betrayed from within! Plus: The *Hulk*!

- ☐ **TALES TO ASTONISH #14** — (Reprints Sub-Mariner #14) Subby vs. the original Human Torch!
- ☐ **STAR WARS #43** — Part V of *The Empire Strikes Back*!
- ☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU #96** — Meet Rufus "Super Midnight" Carter!
- ☐ **MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #10** — Identical twins gain the powers of Captain Universe!
- ☐ **BATTLESTAR GALACTICA #23** — A clue to the way back!

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **CRAZY #69** — "Richie Retch!"; A "The Shining" parody; Obnoxio's contest results; Teen Hulk; Howard the Duck!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #59** — "The City of Skulls!"
- ☐ **THE HULK #24** — "The Man Who Would Be President!" Plus: *Dominic Fortune*!